time. The recent review was held on 16.7.2002. Some of the problems identified in certain States include delay in release of funds by State Governments, inadequate staff strength and frequent transfer of key personnel engaged in the execution of the project and need for training of staff. State Governments have been requested to mitigate the problems on priority basis.

(c) Following steps have been taken to afford more security to forests:—

(i) Reciprocal commitments with village communities for protection of wildlife and its habitat through Eco- Development Committees.

(ii) Strengthening the protection infrastructure through improved communication networks, better mobility and availability of sophisticated arms.

(iii) Habitat improvement through works such as construction of check dams, waterholes, weed eradication, creation of wild animal control barriers and plantation of grass/trees.

(iv) Reducing dependency on forest resources for fueiwood by providing alternative resources and fostering income generating activities that provide sustained income to local people.

(v) Increased awareness about the environmental and ecological attributes of forests.

Delhi Zoological Park

2548. SHRIJHUMUKLALBHENDIA:
SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government would plan to give the Delhi Zoological Park a revamp;

(b) if so, whether there is any proposal with the Central Government in this context;

(c) whether the revamp project at the Delhi Zoo would consider placing all animals close to their natural habitat, instead of cage; and

(d) if so, the details of such proposals?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) and (d) Detailed plan to improve various animal enclosures in National Zoological Park, Delhi and to make them more naturalistic has been prepared. As envisaged under this plan construction of African Elephant and Chimpanzee enclosure has already been taken up.

Seizure of peacock-feathers at IGI Airport

2549. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards the news-item captioned "103 kg. of peacock- feathers seized at IGI airport", appearing in the Hindustan Times on 21st July, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact the 103 kg. of feathers believed to be derived from over a 1000 peacocks were seized from the baggage of two passengers, including an Air India employee; and

(c) if so, what exemplary punishment is being awarded to the gang involved in the racket, especially to the Air India Employees?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) It is not possible to indicate the exact number of peacocks from which these feathers have been obtained. But the number would be substantial.

(c) Since peacocks shed tail feathers annually, these feathers are outside the purview of Wild Life (Protection) Act, 1972. However, some penalty is imposed on the persons indulging in export of peacock-tail feathers in violation of Export-Import Policy under the Customs Act, 1962.

Area under Ranthambhor Tiger Project

†2550. DR. ABRAR AHMED:

SHRI MOOLCHAND MEENA:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the area covered under Ranthambhor Tiger Project in Sawai

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.